

SEP 4 5 1966

Approved For Release 2001/07/26 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000100350033-0

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT

CPYRIGHT

Ben Barka Fireworks Shed Little Light on Crime

By JOHN L. HESS

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Sept. 24—A lawyer quit under fire, the wives of two defendants met in a harrowing confrontation and the French intelligence service came in for more unwelcome publicity in the Ben Barka trial today.

As the trial ended its third week, however, little new light had been shed on the fate of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader who was kidnapped on a Paris boulevard last Oct. 20.

The lawyer, Rene Hayot, did not don his black cloak and white dickey but instead sent word into the Court of Assizes that, in view of the "calumnies" hurled against him, he was forced to withdraw as counsel for Antoine Lopez, star informer and organizer of the kidnapping.

The "calumnies" had been sworn to by the wives of two other defendants, the detectives who kidnapped Mr. Ben Barka under Lopez's direction. After several refusals, the wives testified that the lawyer had urged that the detectives say they had been cleared for the job by a high police officer.

The police filed a complaint

of subornation and the Bar Association opened an inquiry.

Two more women took the stand today—the wives of Lopez and of Maj. Marcel Le Roy, a high official of the intelligence service, the French equivalent of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Major Le Roy is accused of having failed to report knowledge of a crime—specifically of having withheld from the police reports given him by Lopez. The defense of Lopez has been that he kept the intelligence service informed through Major Le Roy and thus believed the operation had been approved by the French authorities.

The former and present heads of the intelligence service, known as the S.D.E.C.E., acknowledged this week that Major Le Roy had passed on two Lopez reports concerning Mr. Ben Barka. The first report, in May, said that King Hassan II of Morocco had decided on an "opening to the left"—an invitation to the exiled Mr. Ben Barka to return and join the Government. The king was quoted as having said, "I need by old mathematics professor to find me a new equation." (Mr. Ben Barka once tutored Hassan).

The second Lopez report, in September, said that the Right Moroccan Minister of the

Interior, Mohammed Oufkir, indeed had been seeking a rendezvous with Mr. Ben Barka, not in behalf of the King but to kill him.

Gen. Paul Jacquier, who was ousted as the intelligence chief last January, testified that these reports were too "sibylline" for the service to have passed them over to police agencies. More detailed reports from Lopez in October do not seem to have got past Major Le Roy.

Chief Judge Jean Perez repeatedly advised the general that he need not answer questions prejudicial to national defense. But the secrecy of the S.D.E.C.E. came under a curious light today.

Mrs. Lopez had recounted the

movements of her husband around the time of the kidnapping, how he took her to her mother's house and left her there for the night, without telling her why, and about his callers on succeeding days.

Judge Perez asked, "Were you aware of your husband's affiliation with S.D.E.C.E.?"

Mrs. Lopez replied, "Oh, yes. We even got a greeting card every new year from the chief."

It also developed that Mrs. Le Roy, the wife of the S.D.E.C.E. executive, received a telephone call from Lopez the morning of the kidnapping. She said she told him her husband had gone to Orly airport to meet the chief, General Jac-